

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, It is estimated that 16 percent of South Dakota citizens are 65 years of age or older, the fastest-growing segment of the state's population; and,

Whereas, Twenty-nine percent of adults over aged 65 in South Dakota fall each year; and,

Whereas, Falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among South Dakota citizens 65 and older, leading to 157 deaths in 2015; and,

Whereas, In 2013, the total direct medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults nationally, adjusted for inflation, was \$34,000,000,000; and,

Whereas, Injuries from falls are largely a preventable community health problem; and,

Whereas, Evidence-based programs reduce falls by utilizing cost-effective strategies such as exercise programs to improve balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement, reduction of home hazards, and fall prevention education; and,

Whereas, The South Dakota Falls Prevention Coalition is working to increase awareness of this issue, promote multidisciplinary strategies to prevent falls, and encourage South Dakota citizens to take steps to protect those who are at increased risk of falling:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 22, 2016, as

FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY

in South Dakota, and I urge our citizens to commend its observance.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifteenth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs
Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State